



## February 2010 Summary of OPI Activities

### Office of the Superintendent

#### **Superintendent Juneau Welcomes Steve York as Assistant Superintendent**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau is pleased to welcome Steve York in his new position as Assistant Superintendent in the Department of Education Services. Steve began his official duties on February 1.

York has 31 years experience as public school educator. He started his teaching career in 1978 with the Yellowstone Park Elementary School. From there, he spent four years as an Elementary Principal in Red Lodge, Montana. He most recently has been an Elementary Principal with Polson Public Schools. York has served in several leadership roles with the School Administrators of Montana including President of the Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals during the 2004 - 2005 school year and President of SAM during the 2006 – 2007 school year. He has been an Evaluator of the Big Sky Science Project which is a NSF funded program based out of the Salish-Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana. Steve also has considerable experience working with law makers on the state and federal level.

#### **OPI Submits 5% General Fund Budget Reductions to Governor**

On January 29, Superintendent Juneau submitted a set of proposed budget reductions to the Governor's Office in response to his request for 5% state general fund budget cuts. In total, the 5% reductions translate into a reduction of \$461,000 for OPI's state level activities and \$3.9 million for distributions to schools. These cuts, if implemented, will occur over the next 18 months – state fiscal years 2010 and 2011. This following provides a summary of the reductions that OPI has proposed.

- **OPI– State Level Activities**

OPI has identified \$461,000 in reductions for the 2011 biennium. The majority of proposed reductions will be made by: (1) using electronic training tools (webinars, video conferencing, Adobe Connect) for professional development activities provided to school personnel and offering fewer days of on-site training; (2) reducing travel costs associated with training for OPI staff; (3) delaying the replacement of computers and servers; (4) discontinuing to advertise open positions through newspapers while continuing to advertise through electronic means; (5) disseminating educational materials when possible to school districts electronically; and (6) reducing grants for curriculum materials development and professional development. The OPI will make greater use of electronic means to offer its services. We understand that this may make it more difficult for a portion of the public to access OPI services.

- **OPI - Distribution to Schools**

To meet the target of a \$3.9 million reduction in state general fund distributions to schools, OPI has proposed a reduction of \$1,818,000 from the biennial appropriation for School Facilities Payments and \$2,083,615 from the biennial appropriation for School District Block Grants.

School Facilities Payments: For the 2011 biennium, \$19,488,784 is appropriated for school facilities payments to school districts. It is estimated that the final payments paid to districts will be \$8.59 million in FY2010 and \$9.09 million in FY2011. This would leave a remaining balance of approximately \$1,818,000 at



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the end of the biennium. Based on current assumptions, there would be no impact to school districts as a result of reducing this appropriation.

School District Block Grants: For the 2011 biennium, \$103,907,667 is appropriated for school district block grants. A \$2,083,615 reduction is proposed to be applied in FY2011 for payments under 20-9-630, MCA and 20-9-632, MCA. In the general fund, the reduction in the block grants will be offset to some extent by an increase to the guaranteed tax base (GTB) aid.

While reductions to other appropriations for Distributions to Schools were considered, the funding for adult basic education, secondary vocational education programs, and school foods programs could not be reduced without violating matching or maintenance of effort requirements of federal programs. In addition, funding rates for pupil transportation and tuition payments are set in statute.

### **OPI to Survey School Districts regarding Evaluation of Teachers and Principals**

In order to receive the remaining \$40 million balance of the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) appropriated to fund public schools for the current biennium, OPI has had to agree to collect information about teacher and principal evaluation processes.

A small set of discrete questions will be developed in February of 2010 and distributed to districts across Montana. School districts will need to respond to these questions in October 2010 through the Annual Data Collection in order to fulfill this federal requirement.

The survey questions will ask for descriptive information about the instruments used to evaluate teachers in your school system, how often tenured and non-tenured teachers are evaluated, and whether the instrument used in the evaluation process is negotiated in the district's collective bargaining agreement.

A similar set of questions will be asked about principal evaluations.

In addition to collecting this information, OPI is required to post the results, by school system, on the web for public review.

We know that evaluation of teachers is widespread across the state, we are not as certain about the processes for evaluating principals. If a principal works in a district where the principal is not evaluated or there is not an instrument used, we want to give districts adequate time to address this, if they so choose, before the questions are posed to school systems in October and responses are posted on the web.

OPI will be working with its K-12 education partners to provide teacher and principal evaluation models and resources to school districts this spring and summer.

### **New Education Trust Report on Student Progress, Achievement Gap Highlights Montana's Gains**

A new report by the Education Trust is further evidence that Montana is making strides in narrowing gaps in achievement on standardized tests while increasing the progress of individual student groups.

Superintendent of Public instruction Denise Juneau says the new report looks at reading and math test scores for fourth and eighth graders under the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) – the



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only standardized test that allows for direct comparison across states. The purpose of the report is "to gain a more sophisticated, comprehensive, and accurate picture" of the nation's achievement gap.

Montana was recognized for increasing student achievement in reading and math for both American Indian and White students over the past six years. Montana was also one of six states recognized for achieving significant progress for low-income students. The state can point to gaps between low-income students and higher-income students that are among the smallest in the nation.

"The Education Trust's latest report confirms that Montana students are making gains in reading and math," says Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau.

"This analysis shows that Montana is making progress in closing the achievement gap among students, but our job is not done until all children are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to compete in the 21st century."

More: [http://www.opi.mt.gov/Media\\_Center/index.html?gpm=1\\_2#gpm1\\_2](http://www.opi.mt.gov/Media_Center/index.html?gpm=1_2#gpm1_2)

### **Teachers Encouraged to Apply for Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program**

Applications are now available for the 2010 "Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program" for K-12 educators.

This is the third year of the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program. It was authorized by the 2007 Legislature, and provides for the direct repayment of student loans to eligible teachers in Montana. A teacher may qualify for loan repayment assistance of up to \$3,000 per year for up to four years—a total of up to \$12,000.

Great leaders were inspired in the classroom by extraordinary teachers. Montana has some of the best teachers in the nation. It is important that we do what we can to keep them here in Montana so they can inspire our young leaders and help build a brighter future.

Across the state, educators are helping students experience success. This program helps us recruit the right people for the right places and helps teachers pursue long-term careers in these fields without becoming burdened by student loan repayment.

The application is available here:

<http://www.mgslp.state.mt.us/Downloads/Files/Documents/Quality%20Educator%20TLF/2010%20TLF%20Application.pdf>

Click here to access a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the program:

[http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Superintendent/Educator\\_Loan\\_Repayment\\_AssistanceFAQ\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Superintendent/Educator_Loan_Repayment_AssistanceFAQ_FINAL.pdf)

For more information visit the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program Web site here:

[http://www.mgslp.state.mt.us/Content/Managing\\_Your\\_Loan/Repayment\\_Options/Quality\\_Educator\\_Loan\\_Assistance\\_Program](http://www.mgslp.state.mt.us/Content/Managing_Your_Loan/Repayment_Options/Quality_Educator_Loan_Assistance_Program)

Or call them at 800-537-7508.



## School Finance

### **Spring Enrollment Reporting Now Open**

The new MAEFAIRS web application is ready for Spring Enrollment Reporting. The official spring enrollment count date is Monday, February 1, 2010. Enrollment must be submitted in the MAEFAIRS system no later than February 12, 2010. The enrollment counts are imported into MAEFAIRS from the AIM system. It is important that the AIM specialist and the MAEFAIRS registered user work together to ensure accurate enrollment information is submitted by February 12.

Step-by-Step instructions are available on the OPI website at:  
[http://www.metnet.mt.gov/Official\\_mail/I02CCCBF3](http://www.metnet.mt.gov/Official_mail/I02CCCBF3).

Questions may be directed to Nica Merala, (406) 444-4401 or [nmerala@mt.gov](mailto:nmerala@mt.gov) or Donell Rosenthal, (406) 444-4401 or [drosenthal@mt.gov](mailto:drosenthal@mt.gov).

### **FY2009-10 First Semester Transportation Claim Forms Due**

By February 15, 2010, school districts must submit one copy of first semester transportation claim forms TR-5 Bus Route Reimbursement and TR-6 Individual Transportation Contract Reimbursement to the county superintendent and submit the claims electronically to the OPI online Pupil Transportation program. By February 22, 2010, the county superintendent must electronically authorize each district TR-5 and TR-6 for the first semester.

Upon receipt of the electronic claims and authorization, OPI will verify and disburse the approved amount of state reimbursement for first semester transportation. Payments will be made on March 25, 2010. Upon receipt of the electronic state payment, the county superintendent orders the payment of the county reimbursement for first semester transportation on the basis of the state reimbursement.

Questions may be directed to Maxine Mougeot, (406) 444-3096 or [mmougeot@mt.gov](mailto:mmougeot@mt.gov)

## Accreditation

### **Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan Technical Assistance**

The Accreditation Unit will be offering technical assistance to schools and districts regarding the implementation of the Yearly Action Plans within the Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan (5YCEP). If you are interested in receiving this technical assistance, please contact Kelly Glass, (406) 444-0716 or [kglass@mt.gov](mailto:kglass@mt.gov).

## Indian Education

### **Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference**

Due to high interest, the 2010 Best Practices Conference has reached its registration capacity. This event is scheduled for February 16-17 in Helena.



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## Career Technical Adult Education

### **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**

I'm sure all of you are very busy with Career Development Events, Degree and Proficiency Applications, and District Conventions. Just remember in this crazy time of year why we do all those things – it's for the students. You make more of a difference than you will ever know. And while they seldom say out loud, students and parents appreciate all that you do.

Winter Meeting is in Lewistown on January 30<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting I will be presenting information on the State CTE Enrollment Reports as well as information on the Technical Skill Attainment (2S1) on the Perkins E-grant application. I know that Kari and the officers have some very important useful items on the agenda.

Dr. Brad King  
Agriculture Education Specialist  
(406) 444-4451 (Office)  
(406) 465-3037 (Cell)  
[BKing2@mt.gov](mailto:BKing2@mt.gov)

### **Family and Consumer Sciences Education Human Services & Resources**

The 2009 – 2010 Montana FCCLA State Executive Council met in Helena on January 25 and 26 to discuss plans for the upcoming State Leadership Conference. The conference will be held in Billings, MT March 18 – 20 with the theme "Strike the Right Note with FCCLA." Montana FCCLA members will have the opportunity to participate in competitive events, career development and leadership training. Chapter advisers (family and consumer sciences teachers) and students around Montana are working hard to prepare for the conference. The Montana FCCLA Advisory Board meeting was going to be held January 25, but it was postponed due to bad weather. This meeting has been rescheduled for February.

Megan A. Anderson  
Family & Consumer Sciences Education Specialist  
FCCLA State Adviser  
Phone: (406) 444-3599 Fax: (406) 444-1373  
Email: [MAnderson2@mt.gov](mailto:MAnderson2@mt.gov)

### **Health Sciences Technology Education**

The following E-newsletter includes a survey for secondary science and health enhancement teachers who might be interested in seeking an endorsement to teach health science classes in the future.

Health Science Connection for MT Educators  
<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs032/1102444951854/archive/1102918895174.html>

Renee Harris  
Health Sciences Education Specialist  
Tel: 406-444-2059 fax: 406-444-1373  
Email: [RHarris3@mt.gov](mailto:RHarris3@mt.gov)



## State CTE Enrollment Reports—UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Division of Career and Technical Education is upgrading the way in which CTE teachers will submit their annual CTE Enrollment Reports to make it easier and faster. Due to this upgrade, the CTE Division may not “roll out” the new procedure by the end of January, as has been typical in the past. If we do delay distribution to the field, the due date will also be adjusted so all districts will have the same amount of time to submit to the OPI as in prior years. Please stay tuned for more information as we get closer to finalizing this new online process. Official e-mail notification will go out to all Superintendents when the online process is available for teachers to complete and submit electronically. For more information, please contact Diana Fiedler, CTAE Division, at 406.444.9019 or reach her by e-mail at: [dfiedler@mt.gov](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov).

## Montana passed all Perkins Performance Indicators!

When Perkins was reauthorized in 2006, it brought with it more data requirements. Here is a brief *unofficial* report on how the state of Montana did. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Diana Fiedler, CTAE Division, at 406.444.9019 or reach her by e-mail: [dfiedler@mt.gov](mailto:dfiedler@mt.gov).

### Perkins IV ACCOUNTABILITY DATA--Performance Indicators

Academic Year: 2008-2009

Updated: January 15, 2010

MONTANA		1S1	1S2	2S1	3S1	4S1	5S1	6S1	6S2
Results		78%	53%	100%	99%	96%	85%	22%	13%
State Negotiated Goal		74%	51%	80%	80%	80%	82%	10%	10%

### Performance Indicator DEFINITIONS

**Non-Traditional Students are defined as:** Males enrolled in Family & Consumer Sciences or in Health Sciences courses;  
Females enrolled in Industrial Tech/Trades & Industrial Arts courses.

#### Perkins IV Core Indicator 1S1--Reading

**Numerator:** Number of CTE concentrators who scored proficient or higher on their 10th grade NCLB Reading/LA test and left secondary ed.

**Denominator:** Number of CTE concentrators who took the 10th grade NCLB Reading/LA test and left secondary education.

#### Perkins IV Core Indicator 1S2--Mathematics

**Numerator:** Number of CTE concentrators who scored proficient or higher on their 10th grade NCLB Math test and left secondary education.

**Denominator:** Number of CTE concentrators who took the 10th grade NCLB Math test and left secondary ed.

#### Perkins IV Core Indicator 2S1--Technical Skill Attainment

**Numerator:** Number of CTE concentrators who passed the technical skill assessment in the school year, if available and appropriate.

**Denominator:** Number of CTE concentrators who took the technical skill assessment in the school year.

\*\* This year we reported on AG and HEALTH SCIENCE only.

#### Perkins IV Core Indicator 3S1--School Completion

**Numerator:** Number of CTE concentrators who earned a high school diploma, GED, or certificate during the school year.

**Denominator:** Number of CTE concentrators who left secondary education during the school year.

#### Perkins IV Core Indicator 4S1--Student Graduation Rates

**Numerator:** Number of CTE concentrators who earned a high school diploma, GED, or certificate during the school year.

**Denominator:** Number of CTE concentrators included in computation of the AYP graduation rate and left secondary education





during the school year.

#### **Perkins IV Core Indicator 5S1--Placement--Prior Year--2007-08**

**Numerator:** Number of CTE concentrators who left secondary and were either in post-secondary ed. or advanced training, employment, or military.

**Denominator:** Number of CTE concentrators who left secondary education during the reporting year.

#### **Perkins IV Core Indicator 6S1--Non Trad Participation**

**Numerator:** Number of CTE participants from underrepresented gender groups who participated in a non-trad program.

**Denominator:** Number of CTE participants who participated in non-trad programs.

#### **Perkins IV Core Indicator 6S2--Non Trad Completion**

**Numerator:** Number of CTE concentrators from underrepresented gender groups who completed a non-trad program.

**Denominator:** Number of CTE concentrators who completed a non-trad program.

### **Measurement and Accountability**

#### **AIM Spring Attendance Collection Ends Feb 12**

The AIM Spring Attendance Collection will be used to collect the aggregate hours and absent counts of all enrolled students as of February 1, 2010. This collection ends February 12, 2010. Instructions for entering this information can be found at:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pub/index.php?dir=AIM/AIM%20Collections/Spring%20Attendance%20Collection/>

The enrollment count and aggregate hours are used in calculating the Average Number Belonging (ANB) by the MAEFAIRS system. We ask that school districts to have all enrollment and attendance information entered and verified in AIM as soon after Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> as possible in order for MAEFAIRS users to finish their work by the due date of Feb. 12, 2010. AIM specialists and MAEFAIRS registered users should work closely to ensure the data is accurate and verifiable.

This collection in AIM and MAEFAIRS absolutely ends February 12, 2010. School Finance staff must have enrollment numbers to determine ANB counts which are included in the preliminary budget data sheets due to districts by March 1, 2010.

Contact the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 or 406-444-3800, or email [opiainhelp@mt.gov](mailto:opiainhelp@mt.gov) if you have any questions.

#### **AIM Program Participation Begins March 1, and ends March 26, 2010**

The Program Participation Collection begins March 1, 2010. This collection focuses on data collection to identify specific student sub-groups and participation in various state and federal programs. This data is used in Adequate Yearly Progress calculations and for state and federal reporting purposes. All data must be accurate as of the test window count date of March 9, 2010. The OPI will perform reasonability checks with previous year's data throughout the collection and will contact schools to verify counts that differ significantly. The Program Participation Collection ends March 26, 2010.

It is critical that correct data be entered by this date to ensure AYP student group calculations are valid. We ask that Test Coordinators work closely with the school's AIM Specialist to ensure the data collection is completed by the due date.



Instructions for entering enrollment and program participation information can be found at:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pub/index.php?dir=AIM/AIM%20Collections/CRT%20Program%20Participation%20Collection/>

Contact the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 or 406-444-3800, or email [opiainhelp@mt.gov](mailto:opiainhelp@mt.gov) if you have any questions.

## Health Enhancement and Safety

### **Title IV A Safe and Drug Free School Program No Longer Funded**

The Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2010 was signed by the President December 16, 2009. The Title IV A Safe and Drug Free School and Community Program will be terminated as a result of that action; no grant program will be offered for the 2010-2011 school year. We will provide information related to closeout of these funds as soon as guidance is provided by the U. S. Department of Education. For more information contact Karin Billings at [kbillings@mt.gov](mailto:kbillings@mt.gov) , 444-3000 or Cathy Kendall at [cakendall@mt.gov](mailto:cakendall@mt.gov), 444-0829.

### **Montana Traffic Education Association (MTEA) Annual Spring Conference Save the Date - April 25 – 27, 2010 in Helena**

Traffic Education deals with our teens' number one public health issue: driving. We encourage traffic education teachers and administrators to save the date and plan to attend the MTEA/OPI conference April 25 – 27, 2010 at Helena's Red Lion Colonial Inn. The delivery of Traffic Education is not without risk and liability exposure for the district, the teacher and the student. Each conference and workshop participant is provided valuable information for minimizing risk and liability exposure. Conference sessions will address the latest issues with the best-known practices, including the challenges of behind the wheel instruction and parent involvement. Contact MTEA for Registration: JIM CARROLL [tjcarrol@rocketmail.com](mailto:tjcarrol@rocketmail.com)

### **Act Out Loud Youth Traffic Safety Contest**

The nationwide Act Out Loud contest has \$40,000 to help schools start their distracted driving prevention projects. The first 200 teams to enter will receive \$200 to help get their project started. Before February 17, 2010 complete your application for Act Out Loud at <http://www.actoutloud.org> or <http://www.keepthe drive.com/> As part of National Youth Traffic Safety Month in May, The Allstate Foundation and National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) invite you to Act Out Loud about smart driving for a chance to earn up to \$10,000 for your school. It's time to raise your voice against distracted driving in your community.

Create an Act Out Loud team at your school and a great traffic safety project to give your team the opportunity to win a cool video camera and up to \$10,000 sponsored by The Allstate Foundation! The Top 20 teams will have the opportunity to nominate their principal as the "Most Supportive Principal" to win a \$5,000 award for their school's traffic safety efforts. The Top 20 teams will also have an opportunity to nominate their team's adult adviser to win the "Adviser in the Most Supportive Role" award and win a \$5,000 cash prize. The national organization that has the most entries will win \$10,000 to support their national conference.





## **DOD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Allocations**

If you have signed up for the DOD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, go to <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolFood/FDCP/10JanDODRemainingAlloc.pdf> to check if your district has remaining funds for the 2010 school year. This amount will not reflect recent orders.

If your district has remaining funds, we ask that you use them as soon as possible. If your district does not plan to use the funds, please contact our office so that we may reallocate them to other schools. It is important for us to show the DOD that Montana schools are able to use the current allocation.

Watch for the DOD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program sign-up sheet for the 2011 school year from our office in the spring.

Kennie Johnson  
School Nutrition Programs  
(406) 444-4412

## **School Wellness in Action: Mini Grant Program Applications**

The Montana Team Nutrition (MTN) Program announces a competitive grant opportunity in support of school wellness policy implementation efforts. With funds from the 2009 USDA Team Nutrition Training Grant, the Montana Office of Public Instruction will award ten \$5,000 mini grants to school districts that participate in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs throughout Montana.

This *School Wellness Policy In Action Mini Grant* is being offered in response to the need for increased support for school wellness policy implementation at the local level. The purpose of the grant is to support the creation of sustainable healthy school nutrition environments. Grant goals are a) to partially fund a school wellness coordinator to direct wellness activities; or b) to carry out action steps of school wellness policy implementation plans.

A total of \$50,000 for mini-grants (up to **\$5,000 each**) will be awarded to school districts through a competitive process. An electronic version of this application is available at the Office of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Programs Web site at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/grants.html>.

The application must be received by March 5, 2010. Grants will be awarded as early as March 19, 2010, and the funds must be spent by August 31, 2011.

There will be two opportunities for technical assistance through conference calls on February 2 and 9, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Preregistration is required for these calls. To pre-register, email your name, email address and telephone number to [maryann.harris@montana.edu](mailto:maryann.harris@montana.edu)

Katie Bark  
Montana Team Nutrition Program  
406-994-5641  
[kbark@mt.gov](mailto:kbark@mt.gov)



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### **School Breakfast Week – Get Ready, Set, Go!**

It's time to celebrate. School Breakfast week is March 8-12, 2010. This year's theme is 'School Breakfast – Ready Set Go!', which features how eating breakfast at school sets students up for learning at school. Go to <http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/meetingsandevents/nsbw2010/> to get tools, menus and contest information from the School Nutrition Association.

School Nutrition Programs  
(406) 444-2501

### **Looking to Increase Participation Levels and Revenue from Your School Breakfast Program?**

Consider expanding your school breakfast program by offering a grab and go or a breakfast in the classroom service option. Montana schools are experiencing large increases in their breakfast participation levels through these options.

Check out the expanding school breakfast success stories from Montana schools and watch a short video on a Breakfast in the Classroom Program at the following link: [www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/resources.html](http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/resources.html) go to Breakfast resources. For more information contact;

Katie Bark  
Montana Team Nutrition Program  
(406) 994-5641 or [kbark@mt.gov](mailto:kbark@mt.gov)

### **USDA Commodity Foods**

Do you have any remaining USDA Foods entitlement? Go to this link [http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolFood/FDCP/09\\_10EntitlementBalances.pdf](http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolFood/FDCP/09_10EntitlementBalances.pdf) to get a revised USDA Foods remaining entitlement list for the 2010 school year. You may use this list of available USDA Foods <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolFood/FDCP/09NovAvailableUSDAFoods.pdf> to request items to use your entitlement.

Judy Wilson  
School Nutrition Programs  
(406) 444- 4415

### **Meal Counting and Claiming Self-Review**

The annual Meal Counting and Claiming Self-Review and the second Afterschool Snack Program Review are due to be completed by February 1st (as applicable). These forms can be downloaded at [www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/index.html](http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/index.html)

For meal counting and claiming, go to the website, click on "School Programs Forms and Guidance" and look under "Meal Counting and Claiming" for the onsite review of meal counting and claiming procedures.

For the afterschool snack program, go to the website, click on "Afterschool Snack Program Packet" and look for "Page 10 – Afterschool Snack Program Review." For more information:



**opi.mt.gov**

School Nutrition Programs  
(406) 444-2501

## **Summer Food Sponsors**

Is your school district interested in serving meals to children this summer? The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was created to serve nutritious meals to children during the summer months when National School Lunch and Breakfast Program meals are not available. The SFSP reimburses schools and organizations that prepare and serve meals to eligible children during the summer.

If interested in becoming an SFSP sponsor, please contact Sofia Janik at (406) 444-2501.

## **Heck Quaw School in Belgrade Receives State-wide Healthy School Breakfast Award**

Heck Quaw School of Belgrade School District received a *Healthier Montana Menu Challenge* award for their School Breakfast Program this month. Heck Quaw School is the **6th school district statewide** to receive this prestigious award. The school breakfast menu had to meet a challenging set of criteria to qualify for the award and in doing so, Heck Quaw School is serving *exceptionally healthy* school breakfast meals. Kathy Biehl and the school food service staff have made healthy changes to the breakfast menu such as: offering colorful, fresh fruits; whole grains; protein sources three times per week; breakfast cereals with less sugar and more fiber, and low fat dairy products.

For more information on the Healthier Montana Menu Challenge award go to the following website:  
[www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/HealthierMT2.html](http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/HealthierMT2.html)

Molly Stenberg  
Montana Team Nutrition Program  
(406) 994-7217 or [Stenberg@montana.edu](mailto:Stenberg@montana.edu)

## **Other Education News**

### **Webinar on Teen Depression and Suicide Risk**

Faculty and staff are in a unique position to help students recognize depression in themselves or their friends, and encourage them to get help for this common and treatable problem.

A free 60-minute webinar on Teen Depression and Suicide Risk is designed to show teachers, counselors, school nurses, psychologists and other school personnel how they can effectively incorporate depression education into the classroom, using a ground-breaking new film, *More Than Sad: Teen Depression*, developed by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The film features vignettes of four teens that will help students recognize the varied signs and symptoms of depression, reduce their misconceptions and apprehensions about treatment and promote help-seeking behavior.

The webinar will be offered at the following times:

Tuesday, February 9th at 10:00am EST / 9:00am CST / 8:00am MST  
Tuesday, February 9th at 3:30pm EST / 2:30pm CST / 1:30pm MST



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Wednesday, February 10th at 10:00am EST / 9:00am CST / 8:00am MST  
Wednesday, February 10th at 1:00pm EST / 12:00pm CST / 11:00am MST

Thursday, February 11th at 10:00am EST / 9:00am CST / 8:00am MST

Register here:

[https://afspevents.webex.com/mw0306l/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=afspevents&service=6&main\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fafspevents.webex.com%2Fec0605l%2Feventcenter%2Fprogram%2FprogramDetail.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26siteurl%3Dafspevents%26cProgViewID%3D0](https://afspevents.webex.com/mw0306l/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=afspevents&service=6&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fafspevents.webex.com%2Fec0605l%2Feventcenter%2Fprogram%2FprogramDetail.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26siteurl%3Dafspevents%26cProgViewID%3D0). You may also copy/paste this link into your browser if you prefer: <http://bit.ly/6mQ4OU>.

AFSP is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide.

For more information about AFSP's depression education and suicide prevention efforts, please contact Sarah Azrak, Education Manager, at [sazrak@afsp.org](mailto:sazrak@afsp.org)

### **2010-11 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program**

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program is funded from the Title IV, Part A, Subpart 6, Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, Higher Education Amendments of 1992.

Approximately 20 scholarships are awarded each year to outstanding Montana seniors, graduates of GED programs and home school seniors. Each scholarship is \$1,500 annually and may be renewed three times during undergraduate study, if the students maintain eligibility. The purpose of the scholarship is "to promote student excellence and achievement and to recognize exceptionally able students who show promise of continued excellence." Scholarships will be equitably distributed across geographic regions of the state. Applications will be read and rated by a team of reviewers.

An applicant must meet the following **minimum qualifications**:

- Be a graduating senior or a graduating GED student for the 2009-10 school year;
- Have a **3.60** or higher GPA in a college preparatory curriculum and have a cumulative score of **2160** on the SAT, or **30** on the ACT;
- Use the scholarship award for the first year of study, renewable for up to **three additional years**, as a full-time student at any public or private institution of higher education, as defined by 34 CFR-668.2. Proprietary institutions are not included and neither are nonprofit institutions that only provide training programs of less than one year; and
- Be a resident of Montana and a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the United States.

The applications must be postmarked by **March 5, 2010**.

If you have any questions, please call Carol Gneckow, (406) 444-2417 or e-mail, [cgneckow@mt.gov](mailto:cgneckow@mt.gov). The 2010-11 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application can be found on the Web page <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Scholarships/index.html>.



**opi.mt.gov**

### **Great Falls Ad Club Scholarships**

The Great Falls Ad Club is sponsoring two scholarships for Montana high school seniors. Please visit <http://www.gfaf.com/Scholarships.html> for more information.

### **Summer Field Seminars in Yellowstone National Park**

Join the non-profit Yellowstone Association Institute for in-depth seminars on ecology, geology, history, and wildlife taught by researchers, field biologists, and other park experts. Institute field seminars are ideal for teachers wanting to deepen their knowledge about science and ecology in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, gain new ideas for the classroom, or pursue continuing education credits. Please call (406) 848-2400 or visit us online at [www.yellowstoneassociation.org](http://www.yellowstoneassociation.org) for a free catalog of summer courses.

### **NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers - *"Social Movements in Modern America: Labor, Civil Rights, and Feminism"***

You are invited to apply for our three-week summer institute at Indiana University in Bloomington - July 11-31, 2010. We will examine the pivotal role of three major social movements in America: their history, their interrelationships, and their transformative political and cultural impact over the last century.

For more information, eligibility requirements, and application instructions, visit <http://www.indiana.edu/~inst2010> or contact Dr. Barbara Truesdell, [barbara@indiana.edu](mailto:barbara@indiana.edu).

Your application must be postmarked or received electronically no later than March 2, 2010.

### **Education Licensure**

#### **Reminder to those whose license expires 6/30/2010**

You can renew your license any time after January 1 of the year it expires. Please encourage your licensed staff members who have completed their renewal requirements to submit their renewal application, appropriate fee, official transcripts and renewal units as soon as possible. The volume of work in the Educator Licensure Office increases exponentially after April 1. Submission of renewal applications after that date can cause significant delays.

### **Assessment**

#### **JUMP Newsletter**

The following is a link to the most recent JUMP Newsletter:  
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/NewsLetters/09DecJUMP.pdf> .

#### **ELP Reports**

The English Language Proficiency reports will be out in February.